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Birds at Benicia, California

The following is a census of the birds taken at Benicia, California, on December 23, 1930, from 8:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Weather—clear; light chilly west wind; temperature 22° at start, 50° at return. Frost during previous night and thin coat of ice on small ponds all morning.

Horned Grebe 1; Pied-billed Grebe 2; Western Gull 15; California Gull 4; Ring-billed Gull 1; White Pelican 1; Mallard 8; Green-winged Teal 13; Shoveller 1; Pintail 4500+; Canvas-back 14; Lesser Scaup 4; Ruddy Duck 5; Lesser Snow Goose 5500+; Whistling Swan 18; Great Blue Heron 8; American Egret 10; Black-crowned Night Heron 4; Coot 2300+; Wilson Snipe 1; Western Sandpiper 7; Greater Yellow-leg 11; Killdeer 5; Marsh Hawk 9; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Desert Sparrow Hawk 3; Red-shafted Flicker 14; Black Phoebe 2; Horned Lark 12; California Jay 11; Bi-colored Blackbird 1; Meadowlark 50; Brewer Blackbird 1200+; Linnet 250+; Willow Goldfinch 200+; Green-backed Goldfinch 8; Western Savannah Sparrow 36; Nuttall Sparrow 12; Oregon Junco 15; Suisun Song Sparrow 25; Brown Towhee 3; Shrike 10; Audubon Warbler 2; Pipit 100+; Tule Wren 1;

Total of 45 Species, about 14,402 individuals.

The Whistling Swans were well observed floating majestically on a pond in company with Ducks and Coots. One may expect to locate them frequently in this locality during the winter. Emerson A. Stoner and James M. Barkley, Benicia, California.



Notes on Hummer Bottles. My Hummer bottles, obtainable at most drug-stores, are two inches high, with wide mouths of 11/16 inches in diameter. I have painted them a bright scarlet or vermillion. They are tied by the neck to sticks made from slender branches, and these are nailed to the windowsill, so that the bottles are about a foot out from the building. The concentration of syrup which I have found most satisfactory is ten heaping spoonfuls of sugar to fifteen spoonfuls of water.

Put these bottles out and two results may follow; one probable, and the other certain.

The probable result: Anna and Allen Hummers will be attracted; they will love the syrup; they will give you unending delight.

The certain result: Argentine Ants in vast multitudes will be attracted; they will adore the syrup; they will cause you unending distress. Unending, that is, until in your despair you turn at last for help, as I did, to our United States Government—unto the Department of Agriculture, beneficent and wise.

A disinterested scientist will inform you that a solution of bichloride of mercury in shellac inspires terror in the heart of an ant. Obtain a couple of ounces of a 25 to 50% solution, and paint a band of this for a few inches around the stick that holds the Hummer bottle, and lo, they shall not pass, they do not pass, they cannot pass! Of such are the uses of negative chemotropism. Herman de Fremery, Oakland.

Birds at Napa, California

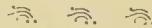
The following is a list of seventy-seven birds observed at Napa, California, from December 25, 1929, to May 25, 1930, by Bill Randall, Napa Kiwanis Troop No. 20, submitted to us by Mr. E. L. Bickford of Napa.

*Great Blue Heron	Slender-billed Nuthatch
*Black-crowned Night Heron	*Wren-tit
*Mallard	*Vigors Wren
Canvas-back Duck	California Thrasher
*Turkey Vulture	*Western Robin
White-tailed Kite	Varied Thrush
Sharp-shinned Hawk	*Western Bluebird
*Cooper Hawk	Townsend Solitaire
Desert Sparrow Hawk	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
*California Quail	*American Pipit
*Western Gull	Cedar Waxwing
Band-tailed Pigeon	*California Shrike
*Mourning Dove	*Warbling Vireo
*Barn Owl	*Cassin Vireo
Screech Owl	*Lutescent Warbler
*Burrowing Owl	California Yellow Warbler
*Anna Hummingbird	Audubon Warbler
*Red-shafted Flicker	Long-tailed Chat
*California Woodpecker	*Western Meadowlark
Lewis Woodpecker	*Bullock Oriole
Red-breasted Sapsucker	*Brewer Blackbird
*Willow Downy Woodpecker	Western Tanager
Say Phoebe	*Black-headed Grosbeak
*Black Phoebe	Lazuli Bunting
*Western Flycatcher	*English House Sparrow
Wood Pewee	*Purple Finch
Olive-sided Flycatcher	*Linnet
*Horned Lark	Pine Siskin
Violet-green Swallow	*Willow Goldfinch
*Tree Swallow	*Green-backed Goldfinch
*Bank Swallow	*San Francisco Spotted Towhee
*Rough-winged Swallow	*San Francisco Brown Towhee
*Cliff Swallow	*Lark Sparrow
*California Jay	Oregon Junco
*American Crow	*Chipping Sparrow
*Plain Titmouse	*Golden-crowned Sparrow
*Bush-tit	*Nuttall Sparrow
*Barn Swallow	Lincoln Sparrow

*Song Sparrow

In addition to the above birds, ten other were observed on the Vallejo shore-line near Black Point Auto Bridge: Semipalmated Plover, *Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, *Hudsonian Curlew, *Least Sandpiper, *Red-backed Sandpiper, *Long-billed Dowitcher, *Western Sandpiper, *Bonaparte Gull, and *Western Savannah Sparrow.

All of the above birds marked with a star, together with the following additional ones, were observed in one week from April 20 to 26, Brandt and Baird Cormorants, Anthony Green Heron, Red-tailed and Marsh Hawks, Coot, Greater Yellow-legs, Murre, Rufous Hummingbird, Western Kingbird, Raven, Yellow-throat, Bi-colored Blackbird, Pileolated Warbler, and Fox Sparrow, making a total of seventy-four for the one week.



Census of Birds' Nests in the Music Concourse, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California, for 1930

While anything but beneficial for San Francisco, or the state at large, the lack of rain in the fall and early winter of 1930 made conditions almost ideal

for the taking of this year's census of birds' nests in the trees of the Music Concourse in Golden Gate Park, which work was accomplished on a sunny morning in mid-December.

Even at this late date there had been no strong winds to carry away, and but little rain to rot the dead leaves, so that certain trees had still remaining a few bunches of leaves that might have lodged upon and partly hidden a nest here and there, but every care was taken to overcome this difficulty and if any were missed the number probably was not over one or two.

The number of nests was nearly double that of the previous year, yet it was next to the lowest record of the eleven years in which this census has been taken, the total being seventeen. Of these there was evidence of a brood having been raised in five nests only. Nuttall Sparrows apparently were responsible for twelve nests, among which three had contained broods, six had been deserted or robbed, one contained bits of egg shell, one had three eggs sticking to bottom of nest (all three somewhat disintegrated, but with no sign of incubation) and one nest had not been finished. The remainder of the nests were divided as follows: Willow Goldfinch, brood raised, one; California Linnet, brood raised, one; Western Robin, unfinished, one; English Sparrow; unfinished, one; unfinished and not identified, one. Joseph Mailliard, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, Calit.



February Field Trip was taken on Sunday, the 15th, starting from Easton Drive, Burlingame, and walking to the top of the ridge, then through the San Francisco Water Department's property to San Andreas Lake and following along both shores of the lake. The associations along the route consist of city streets with trees and shrubbery, oak groves, canyons with wooded sides, open grass land and lake shore.

The day began clear, calm and warm but in the late afternoon clouds and a heavy mist were present.

The high-light of the trip was a Road-runner on a hillside near South San Francisco.

A total of seventy species of birds were noted as follows:

Eared Grebe	Killdeer	Varied Thrush
Western Grebe	Spotted Sandpiper	Hermit Thrush
Pied-billed Grebe	Glaucous-winged Gull	Western Bluebird
Farallon Cormorant	California Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Great Blue Heron	Ring-billed Gull	American Pipit
Mallard	Anna Hummingbird	Cedar Waxwing
Pintail Duck	Allen Hummingbird	Hutton Vireo
Canvas-back Duck	Road-Runner	Audubon Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Red-shafted Flicker	Meadowlark
Buffle-head Duck	California Woodpecker	Brewer Blackbird
White-winged Scoter	Hairy Woodpecker	House Sparrow
Surf Scoter	Black Phoebe	Purple Finch
Ruddy Duck	Horned Lark	Linnet
American Merganser	Steller Jay	Pine Siskin
Turkey Vulture	California Jay	Green-backed Goldfinch
White-tailed Kite	Chestnut-backed	Spotted Towhee
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Chickadee	Brown Towhee
Cooper Hawk	Plain Titmouse	Savannah Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Bush-tit	Lark Sparrow
Golden Eagle	Brown Creeper	Junco
Marsh Hawk	Wren-tit	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Sparrow Hawk	Bewick Wren	Nuttall Sparrow
California Quail	California Thrasher	Song Sparrow
Coot	Robin	



Chas. A. Bryant, historian.

Hooded Mergansers: On February 23rd, while watching the ducks at Lake Merritt, I saw something on the shore of the Island which I thought

was a Horned Grebe in breeding plumage but closer investigation proved it to be a young male Hooded Merganser. Close beside it was a female.

They were seen on February 25 and 26 as well. We were at the lake on February 28 but could not find them. Upon inquiry there is apparently no previous record of this bird on Lake Merritt. Gordon Bolander, Oakland.



Audubon Notes

March Meeting will be held on Thursday, the 12th, at 8 p. m., room 19, 2nd floor, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Chase Littlejohn, of Redwood City, who will speak on "Birds of the Far North." Specimen skins of many of the birds referred to will be shown.



March Field Trip will be taken Sunday, the 15th, to Point Bonita. After luncheon those desiring to do so may visit the lighthouse then return to Sausalito. Busses will be on hand for those who may wish to ride back, fee 50c. Purchase round trip ticket to Sausalito 25c and take Sausalito Ferry at 8:15 a. m. Round trip 12 miles. In case of rain, trip will be taken on the Sunday following. Leader C. A. Bryant.



Directors' Meeting: A meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 6:45 Thursday evening, the 12th. C. A. Bryant, Recording Secretary.



February Meeting: The 169th regular meeting was held February 12th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with forty members and guests present. President Brighton C. Cain presiding.

The following were elected to membership:

Mr. E. H. Ehmann, Piedmont; Kenneth E. Hill, Jack Siefert, Robert Failing and Morgan Harris all of Oakland; Miss Christine Danz, San Francisco; Mrs. C. Norman Compton, Berkeley. Miss Anna Boegle recently resigned was re-elected.

Field observations were reported as follows:

Joseph J. Webb: February 7, Cliff House, 20 Surf Birds, 16 Black Turn-

stones, 1 Ruddy Turnstone.

Chas. Bryant: January 18, marshes near Redwood City, 36 American Egrets, 9 Black-bellied Plovers, 2 Lesser Yellow-legs, 10 Red-breasted Mergansers. February 8, Suisun marshes near Cygnus, 2 Whistling Swans, 2 Tree Swallows.

C. R. Thomas: February 12th, Yerba Buena Island, crows.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. James Moffitt, Research Assistant to the Fish and Game Commission. His instructive and interesting talk on "California Wild Fowl" was very enthusiastically received by an attentive audience.



Dues. Dues for 1931 are coming in very well. If you have not paid yours do it now and save the Treasurer the work of mailing you another notice.



Special Lectures: Four illustrated educational lectures will be given in April on the evenings of the 2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th, in the P. G. & E. Building, 245 Market Street, San Francisco, at 8 p. m., as follows:

Mr. D. D. McLean, Field Naturalist, Fish and Game Commission, "Upland Game-Birds"; Mr. Leo K. Wilson, Acting Director, Bureau of Education and Research, Fish and Game Commission, "Hawks and Owls"; Miss Margaret W. Wythe, Assistant Curator of Birds, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California, "Our Common Song Birds"; Mrs. G. Earle Kelly, "Shore Birds."

Mark your calendar now, and tell your friends. We want a large attendance.

Audubon Association of the Pacific For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Brighton C. Cain	221 Thayer Bldg., Oakland
Corresponding Secretary.....	C. B. Lastreto.....	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.
Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

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Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.